

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 00115 191024Z

45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 IO-14 DRC-01 /108 W  
----- 024911

R 190730Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7477

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EAID, UV

SUBJ: QUARTERLY REPORT ON VOLTAN SITUATION

AS REQUESTED IN LETTER FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
NEWSOM, FOLLOWING ARE MAIN DEVELOPING ISSUES IN UPPER  
VOLTA, FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN MONTHLY REPORT TO  
SECRETARY OF STATE.

### A. DOMESTIC POLITICS

1. DOMESTIC POLITICS WILL BE INCREASINGLY  
ACTIVE DURING 1974 AS LEADERS AND FACTIONS MANEUVER  
TOWARD PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WHICH SCHEDULED TAKE PLACE  
DECEMBER 1974. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HAS REAFFIRMED HIS  
INTENTION STEP DOWN SO THAT PRESENT MIXED MILITARY-  
CIVILIAN REGIME CAN GIVE WAY TO PURELY CIVILIAN REGIME,  
SAYING THAT MILITARY WILL RETURN TO BARRACKS AND ANY  
OFFICERS WHO STAY ON IN GOVERNMENT AFTERWARDS MUST BE  
IN MUFTI.

2. DESPITE LAMIZANA'S APPARENT SINCERITY,  
DOUBTFUL THAT SITUATION WILL WORK OUT AS HE DESCRIBES.  
BELIEVE MORE LIKELY THAT, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER  
ELECTIONS, CONTINUED MILITARY CONTROL WILL BE ASSURED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OUAGAD 00115 191024Z

IN SOME FORM. POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE DRAFT LAMIZANA

CANDIDACY IN MUFTI, OR ELEVATION SOME OTHER MILITARY MAN TO PRESIDENCY BY EITHER ELECTION, PREVENTIVE ACTION BY MILITARY, OR COUP D'ETAT AFTER ELECTION.

3. ON CIVILIAN SIDE, VARIOUS FACTIONS AND CLAIMANTS EXIST. PRIME MINISTER GERARD KANGO OUEDRAOGO, LEADER OF MAJORITY UDV-RDA PARTY, WOULD CLEARLY BE ONE. WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY, HOWEVER, HE IS NOT-SO-COVERTLY OPPOSED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT JOSEPH OUEDRAOGO (NO KIN). EX-PRESIDENT MAURICE YAMEOGO, FORMER UDV-RDA POLITICIAN WHO WAS OVERTHROWN BY 1966 COUP WHICH BROUGHT IN LAMIZANA, IS ANOTHER WOULD-BE CANDIDATE. HE HAS YET TO OBTAIN RESTORATION OF HIS POLITICAL RIGHT, A NECESSARY STEP BEFORE HE COULD RUN, BUT MOST OF THE FACTIONS OPPOSED TO PRIME MINISTER GERARD KANGO APPEAR SYMPATHETICALLY INCLINED TOWARD REMOVING THIS BAR. IF YAMEOGO THUS REHABILITATED, THIS WOULD RAISE QUESTION OF WHO WOULD RECEIVE SUPPORT OF IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, WHO IN NEAR AND REMOTE PAST RESPECTIVELY FINANCED GERARD KANGO AND MAURICE YAMEOGO.

4. OTHER PARTIES -- LEFTIST MLN AND FRAGMENTED PRA -- WILL BE OF LITTLE WEIGHT IN ACTUAL ELECTION, BUT COULD LEND USEFUL SUPPORT TO A RENEWED MILITARY REGIME. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF MLN WHICH, THOUGH SMALL, INCLUDES HIGH PERCENTAGE OF INTELLECTUAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ELITE WHOSE PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED TO RUN COUNTRY EFFECTIVELY. MLN LEADERS MAY FEEL THEMSELVES BETTER OFF UNDER A MILITARY REGIME. THEY MIGHT FEAR AUTHORITARIAN TENDANCY OF MAURICE AT BEST WOULD GIVE THEM NO ROOM FOR MANEUVER OR AT WORST, WOULD PRODUCE REPRISALS AGAINST THEM.

5. MEANWHILE, UNTIL NEW REGIME COMES IN, PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS ADRIFT WITHOUT FIRM DIRECTON, BECALMED BY CONFLICTING INTEREST OF GERARD KANGO, FIVE MILITARY MEMBERS OF CABINET, JOSEPH AND OTHER POLITICIANS, AND PRO-MLN ELITE. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA, PROCLAIMING HIMSELF ABOVE POLITICS, DOES NOT ACTIVELY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OUAGAD 00115 191024Z

DIRECT THE COUNTRY EITHER.

B. DROUGHT

6. SECOND MAIN PROBLEM IS RECOVERY FROM SIX YEARS OF DROUGHT, PLUS DECADES OF POOR LAND USE PRACTICES AND INCREASING PRESSURES OF ANIMAL AND HUMAN POPULATIONS AGAINST NATURAL RESOURCES. OVERRIDING

PROBLEM IS HOW TO CREATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRESS IN NEARLY STAGNANT AREA CONFRONTING CLIMATIC,  
RESOURCE, AND HUMAN RESTRAINTS.

7. EMERGENCY PICTURE -- SURVIVAL -- IS  
RELATIVELY GOOD, BECAUSE GRAINS BEING COMMITTED BY  
VARIOUS DONORS IN RESPONSE TO 1972 AND 1973 DROUGHTS  
SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO CARRY COUNTRY OVER TO FALL 1974  
HARVEST. SIZE OF THAT HARVEST, OF COURSE, WILL DEPEND  
ON NEXT SUMMER RAINS AND CANNOT BE PREDICTED YET.

8. FAR MORE DIFFICULT IS REDRESSING OF  
TREND TOWARD PROGRESSIVE DEGRADATION OF ECOLOGY  
(OVERGRAZING, DEFORESTATION, LOWERING OF WATER TABLE,  
DESERTIFICATION). PEOPLE OF AMERICA AND EUROPE  
HAVE BEEN SENSITIZED TO CRITICAL PROBLEMS OF SAHEL ZONE,  
INCLUDING UPPER VOLTA, AND DONOR COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES  
HAVE WARMLY RESPONDED TO APPEALS FOR DEVELOPMENT AID.  
HOWEVER, ACTUALLY DEPLOYING THIS AID AND ENSURING THAT  
IT IS CORDINATED, EFFECTIVE AND SUFFICIENT ARE  
TASKS WHICH REMAIN TO BE DONE.

9. OBSTACLES INCLUDE: CUMBERSOME AID PRO-  
CEDURES OF MOST DONORS (INCLUDING USE); LIMITED RAINFALL,  
ABSENCE MAJOR RIVER, ABSENCE HYDROELECTRIC POWER  
POTENTIAL, NEAR-TOTAL ABSENCE MINERAL RESOURCES, AND  
VERY LIMITED EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE; INSUFFICIENT  
MANAGERIAL TALENT, INSUFFICIENT SKILLED PERSONNEL, LOW  
LEVEL OF GENERAL EDUCATION, AND 95 PCT ILLITERACY;  
DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS: AND LARGE  
OVERPOPULATED AREAS WITH HIGH BIRTH RATE.  
OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE AN AGRICULTURE SO BACKWARD THAT  
PRODUCTION CAN BE DOUBLED BY INTRODUCTION OF ANIMAL-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 OUAGAD 00115 191024Z

DRAWN PLOW AND OTHER SIMPLE PRACTICES; IMPORTANT LIVE-  
STOCK POTENTIAL FOR WHICH THE KEY HAS NOT FULLY BEEN  
FOUND; AND EXTENSIVE RICH BOTTOMLAND, HITHERTO UN-  
INHABITABLE BECAUSE OF RIVER BLINDNESS, WHICH CAN BE  
BROUGHT INTO PRODUCTION AS THE DISEASE'S VECTOR FLY IS  
ELIMINATED BY A MULTI-NATIONAL PROGRAM STARTING IN LATE  
1974.

10. THE SIX DROUGHT-STRICKEN SAHEL COUNTRIES  
(MAURITANIA, SENEGAL, MALI, UPPER VOLTA, NIGER, CHAD)  
HELD A CHIEFS-OF-STATE MEETING IN OUAGADOUGOU IN  
SEPTEMBER 1973 AND ESTABLISHED A PERMANENT INTERSTATE  
COMMITTEE (CILSS) HEADQUARTERED IN OUAGADOUGOU TO SEEK  
AID FOR DROUGHT RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT. THUS FAR THE  
SIX COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN GRATIFIED BY THE USA RESPONSE.

THEIR EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN AROUSED BY OUR PROMISES,  
AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM TOWARD FUL-  
FILLING THOSE PROMISES.

C. UPPER VOLTA'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION

11. DESPITE GOUV'S BASICALLY CONSERVATIVE  
BENT, IT HAS IN PAST 18 MONTHS MADE A NUMBER OF MOVES  
TOWARD SOLIDARITY WITH "NON-ALIGNED" AND AFRICAN  
TRENDS. THESE INCLUDED PARTICIPATION IN ALGIERS NON-  
ALIGNED CONFERENCE, VOLTAN VOTING RECORD AT UN,  
ESTABLISHMENT NORMAL RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST REGIMES  
IN DIVIDED COUNTRIES (KOREA, EAST GERMANY, CAMBODIA,  
CHINA, NORTH VIETNAM) AND BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH  
NATIONALIST CHINA AND ISRAEL. HOWEVER, GOUV REMAINS  
WARM TOWARD ITS TRADITIONAL WESTERN FRIENDS (FRANCE,  
USA, AND WESTERN EUROPE IN GENERAL), WITH WHOM BI-  
LATERAL RELATIONS CONTINUE EXCELLENT. ON MIDEAST ISSUE,  
BREAK WITH ISRAEL REFLECTED AFRICAN SOLIDARITY RATHER  
THAN PRO-ARAB SENTIMENT. LIMITED LIBYAN AID AND  
PRESENCE MOSLEM MINORITY OF 20 PCT (INCLUDING PRESIDENT  
LAMIZANA WHO JUST MADE PILGRIMAGE) HAVE AS YET HAD  
LITTLE IMPACT ON PRO-ISRAELI SYMPATHY OF MOST POLITI-  
CALLY ACTIVE VOLTANS. GOUV IS MEMBER OF SEVERAL  
AFRICAN GROUPINGS AIMED AT REGIONAL COOPERATION OR  
INTEGRATION (ENTENTE, CEAO, ETC.), BUT DO NOT EXPECT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 OUAGAD 00115 191024Z

ANY OF THESE TO MAKE MAJOR PROGRESS DURING 1974.  
EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMED FORCES, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DROUGHTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, QUARTERLY REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974OUAGAD00115  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** OUAGADOUGOU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740129/aaaabbqi.tel  
**Line Count:** 203  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** QUARTERLY REPORT ON VOLTAN SITUATION AS REQUESTED IN LETTER FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, EAID, UV  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005